

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-13

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134234

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CH

SUBJECT: IMPORTATION OF MEAT

REF: A) PEKING 0203

B) STATE 209489 TO PARIS 11/17/72 (POUCHED
SEPARATELY TO PEKING)

1. REF A REPORTED CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. BRUCE AND PRC
MIN OF FOREIGN TRADE, PAI HSIANG-KUO IN WHICH PAI MADE
REFERENCE TO OBSTACLES FACING CHINESE EXPORTS TO US.
AMONG SUCH OBSTACLES IS FAILURE OF US AND PRC TO WORK OUT
PROCEDURES BY WHICH INSPECTION OF CHINESE MEAT PROCESSING
PLANTS CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGAL AND
REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED REF B, TO WHICH THE PRC
HAS NEVER RESPONDED.

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2. WE BELIEVE THAT MEAT IMPORTS COULD BE A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR DISCUSSIONS BOTH WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND THE CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS AND FOODSTUFFS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION. WE SUGGEST THAT THE SUBJECT BE RAISED WITH THESE OFFICES ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A) NOTE THAT MINISTER PAI REFERRED TO THE TRADE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE US AND THE PRC AND TO OBSTACLES

FACING PRC EXPORTS TO THE US MARKET. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM AND WISH TO COOPERATE WITH THE PRC TO FACILITATE TRADE BETWEEN US IN ACCORDANCE WITH EQUALITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. IN PARTICULAR, IT APPEARS THAT IMPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE PRC EXPORTS TO THE US. IT WOULD ALSO BE IN THE INTEREST OF US CONSUMERS TO HAVE ANOTHER SOURCE OF MEAT. MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO START TRADE IN MEATS TAKES CONSIDERABLE TIME, OFTEN A YEAR AND A HALF OR TWO YEARS. IT IS THEREFORE DESIRABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, AND HOPEFULLY FROM THAT OF THE PRC AS WELL, TO START THE PROCEDURES NOW.

B) RECALL THAT THE US DELIVERED A MEMORANDUM TO THE PRC IN PARIS ON NOVEMBER 21 PRESENTING THE QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE US CAN IMPORT MEAT FROM CHINA. THE CONTROLS ON MEAT IMPORTS ARE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS OF MEATS. ANIMAL HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN THE MEMORANDUM ARE APPLIED EQUALLY TO ALL DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MEAT PROCESSORS AND TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY AFFECT FOREIGN SUPPLIERS ARE RECIPROCAL, I.E., FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO INSPECT PLANTS IN WHICH US MEAT PRODUCTS ARE PROCESSED TO ENSURE THAT THESE PRODUCTS CONFORM TO STANDARDS SET BY THEM. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM PRESENTED WAS TO INFORM THE PRC OF PROCEDURES BY WHICH CHINESE MEAT COULD BE CERTIFIED FOR IMPORTATION INTO THE US AND TO PAVE THE WAY FOR CHINESE

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EXPORTS.

C) TO THIS END WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE PRC WOULD GIVE US A COPY OF THEIR REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PREPARATION OF MEAT FOR EXPORT, AS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE MEMORANDUM. WE WILL PRESENT OUR LAWS AND REGULATIONS SHORTLY (BEING POUCHED) FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CHINESE SIDE.

D) WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD BETWEEN OUR EXPERTS FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE APPROPRIATE EXPERTS FROM THE CHINESE SIDE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS COULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO IMPORT MEAT FROM CHINA. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE VIEWS OF THE PRC ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH MEETINGS.

3. FYI: THE QUESTION OF MEAT INSPECTION HAS BEEN RAISED WITH THE PRC BY THE JAPANESE, FRENCH, ITALIANS, AND CANADIANS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT INFORMAL INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WITH THE ITALIANS, AND THAT THE CANADIANS ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PRC. CANADIAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO OURS. DEPARTMENT DESIRES ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF FOREIGN (ESPECIALLY CANADIAN) DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRC ON THE MEAT INSPECTION PROBLEM.

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